

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 11-28 are pending in this application, of which claims 6, 16, 22 and 27 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failure to show the tapered through hole.

Accordingly, claims 6, 16, 22 and 27 have been amended to delete this recited feature.

Claims 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by **Tate** (previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tate discloses a test socket including a contactor having a distal end which is received within a tapered retainer for guiding the distal end of the contactor into a terminal housing having a counterbore such that movement of the distal end of the contactor is restricted by the counterbore of the terminal is disclosed.

Tate fails to disclose a through hole having hole portions with different inner diameters as shown, for example, in FIG. 4 of the instant application.

Accordingly, claim 6, as well as claims 16, 22 and 27, have been amended to recite this distinction, and the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6-8, 11, and 12-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by EP 1 510 827 (hereafter "**EP'827**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

EP'827 has a date of publication of March 2, 2005, which is subsequent to the foreign priority date of February 4, 2004 claimed in the instant application. Thus, **EP'827** is not a proper reference under either 35 U.S.C. §102(a) or 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Accordingly, a verified English translation of the foreign priority document, JP 2004-028106, is attached hereto in order to remove EP'827 as a reference. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 6-8 and 11-28, as amended, are in condition for further examination.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: August 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By William L. Brooks

William L. Brooks

Registration No.: 34,129

EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE
LLP

P.O. Box 55874

Boston, Massachusetts 02205

(202) 478-7376

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant